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LEAST A POSITIVE CLARIFICATION OF CHINA'S NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY, BUT ALSO MAY BE A REASONED SYNTHESIS OF CHINESE OVERALL POLICY TOWARD NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT. IF SO, THE NEW STATEMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER EVOLUTIONARY CHANGES IN CHINA'S NUCLEAR POLICIES OVER THE RECENT PAST, INCLUDING THE DECISION IN THE LATTER HALF OF 1983 AT LAST TO JOIN THE IAEA. FREEMAN

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: 1/12/90
TAGS: KSCA, ENRG, MWUC, TPHY, CH, US
SUBJECT: PREMIER ZHAO'S STATEMENT ON NON-PROLIFERATION PUBLISHED IN BEIJING

JPRC

1. (U) JANUARY 12 PEOPLE'S DAILY, IN ARTICLE QUOTING PREMIER ZHAO'S TOAST AT PRESIDENT'S WELCOMING BANQUET, CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH ON CHINESE NUCLEAR POLICY (PARAGRAPH IS ALSO CONTAINED IN 12 JANUARY XINHUA RELEASE):

"CHINA HAS ALWAYS OPPOSED THE ARMS RACE, PARTICULARLY THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE, AND STANDS FOR THE COMPLETE PROHIBITION AND THOROUGH DESTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WE HAVE LONG DECLARED THAT CHINA WILL NEVER BE THE FIRST TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WE ARE CRITICAL OF THE DISCRIMINATORY TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BUT WE DO NOT ADVOCATE OR ENCOURAGE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. WE DO NOT ENGAGE IN NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION OURSELVES, NOR DO WE HELP OTHER COUNTRIES DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WE ACTIVELY SUPPORT ALL PROPOSALS THAT ARE TRULY HELPFUL TO REALIZING NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, TERMINATING THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND ELIMINATING THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR."

2. (U) THE PASSAGE CITED ABOVE CONTAINS SEVERAL NEW, SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS. CHINESE NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY HAS, OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, BEEN GIVEN SIMPLY AS THE BEGINNING-TO-MIDDLE PARTS OF THE PREMIER'S STATEMENT, I.E., A DENIAL OF FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONRY AN ATTITUDE CRITICAL OF THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, BUT A POSITION NEITHER TO ADVOCATE NOR TO ENCOURAGE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. THE PREMIER'S STATEMENT GOES CONSIDERABLY BEYOND THE TRADITIONAL FORMULATION OF THE POLICY, CLARIFYING NOT ONLY THAT CHINA NEITHER ADVOCATES NOR ENCOURAGES PROLIFERATION, THE PREMIER'S STATEMENT THAT CHINA WILL NEITHER ENGAGE IN NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION NOR ASSIST ANY OTHER NATION TO OBTAIN NUCLEAR WEAPONS THUS SOLIDIFIES THE MEANING OF THE EARLIER, LESS-DEFINITE PHRASE. IT SEEMS TO US TO BE AN ACTIVE STATEMENT OF NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY BY CHINA, AND IS, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE FIRST TIME A CHINESE LEADER HAS MADE THE POLICY SO CLEAR IN PUBLIC FORUM.

This is not necessarily what he said.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK TUMMINIA
DATE/CASE ID: 30 MAY 2003 199901748

3. (U) THE FINAL SENTENCE, ON SUPPORT OF PROPOSALS THAT WILL LEAD TO DISARMAMENT AND REDUCE THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR WAR, SEEMS NOT TO BE A NEW CHINESE POSITION. WE HAVE NOT HEARD IT STATED SO VERY OFTEN, HOWEVER, IN Juxtaposition WITH THE POSITION OF CRITICISM TOWARD THE NPT AND NON-ADVOCACY OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION. IT THEREFORE SEEMS TO US THAT ZHAO'S STATEMENT IS AT

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